Docket No.: ZM466/05048 Inventor: Champlin Application, No.: 10/692,050

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-24 are currently pending in the application. Please cancel Claims 6 and 14. Claims 17-24 are new claims of varying scope directed to novel aspects of the present invention.

On December 28, 2004 Applicant's attorney and the Examiner conducted an interview for the above referenced application. Applicant's attorney submitted draft claims to the Examiner prior to the interview. Applicant's attorney argued that the prior art of record does not show a bracket comprising an outwardly extending feature which conforms to a handle opening of a chain saw or powerhead. Although the Examiner agreed these features were not shown in the cited prior art of record, the Examiner asserted that the claim language was too broad.

Accordingly, Claim 17 claims an outwardly extending feature which substantially conforms to the handle opening, which the Examiner agreed was not shown in the cited prior art of record. Claim 21 defines the handle opening as being formed by the casing, knuckle guard and handle, and further claims that the outwardly extending feature engages multiple surfaces of the handle opening. Claim 22 recites the outwardly extending feature substantially conforming to the handle opening, and the first and second portions of the bracket having interlocking features and a single point fastener. Claim 23 recites a bracket which aligns the pole with the center of mass of the saw. Claim 24 recites bracket portions which assume the shape of the handle opening and engage the handle opening.

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OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS UNDER 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The Examiner has objected to the drawings of the present application. Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner has stated that the knuckle guards of claims 9 and 16 are not shown in the pending drawings. The Examiner further alleges that since drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, that Applicant's attorney must amend the drawings to show the knuckle guards or the features must be canceled from the claims.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the knuckle guards 47 are shown in the present application. Specifically, the knuckle guards 47 are shown in Figures 12 and 14. Accordingly, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests this objection withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 8, and 10-11

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 8, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102((a) as being anticipated by admitted prior art (APA). Applicant's attorney has amended the independent claims 1 and 9 rendering this ground of rejection moot.

Specifically, Applicant's attorney has amended claims 1 and 9 to include the single point fastening means of claims 6 and 13 which the Examiner asserted as allowable. Applicant's attorney believes this places claims 1 and 9 in condition for allowance, as well as the dependent claims, and respectfully requests that these grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-5, 9, 12-13, 16

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-5, 9, 12-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over admitted prior art (APA). Applicant's attorney has amended the pending claims rendering this ground of rejection moot.

As previously indicated, Applicant's attorney has amended independent claims 1 and 9 to include a single point fastening feature deemed allowable in claims 6 and 13. Accordingly, Applicant's attorney believes these claims to be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests this ground of rejection withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's attorney believes that the instant application is now in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the pending rejections. However, if the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicants' attorney of record would appreciate a call at (502) 584-1135 to discuss such remaining issues.

DATE: 12/29/2004

Respectfully submitted,

MIDDLETON REUTLINGER

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